

## Conway Elementary School

Nestled in a small suburban neighborhood within the St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area, Conway School is a place where children thrive and grow. Conway School is a public elementary school serving 370 children in the Ladue School District. Conway is a closely-knit, supportive and safe community. Our population is ethnically, socio-economically and academically diverse. Many of our children return as parents of the next generation of Conway students. This positive cycle of growth and renewal is promoted by Conway's traditions of the highest academic achievement, the commitment to serving every student's individual needs and the intense involvement of parents and community members. We are proud of our tradition of excellence. The mat at Conway's front door announces our school motto, **"Welcome to Conway, A Great Place to Learn."**

*Our mission is to promote the joy and challenge of lifelong learning for each of our students, to embrace the unique and diverse qualities each child brings to school, to empower our students to identify and use their strengths in order to become resilient and responsible citizens and to love and value each and every child in our care. Our beliefs guide our decision-making and practices. We believe each child is unique and has immeasurable value. We believe that human potential is limitless. We believe each child has the need to love and be loved. We believe that every child has the right to opportunities.*

Our curriculum addresses the whole child, focusing on academic, intellectual, social, emotional and physical health. Students receive a strong foundation in citizenship and personal growth, as well as in the academic areas. Life skills such as communicating with others, getting along with peers, problem solving, time management and effective organization are continuously taught. Our rigorous program both challenges and supports academic achievement. For the past five years, Conway students have scored among the **"Top 10" elementary schools for sustained performance on the Missouri Assessment Program in Mathematics and Communication Arts.** We provide a formal program to assist the intellectually gifted in reaching their potential. One full time and one half time teacher provide services for students well beyond mastery and grade level expectations. We encourage each child to explore, dream and discover in the classroom and through our numerous co-curricular activities. **One hundred percent of Conway students participate in at least one co-curricular activity.**

Conway children create a partnership with the arts and participate in culturally diverse experiences. Monthly whole-school enrichment assemblies introduce students to mime, storytelling, dance and magic. Each year, all students attend performances at the Florissant Valley Civic Center to enhance their appreciation of theatre and literature. Art Museum and St. Louis Symphony field trips parallel units of study.

Conway staff members are role models, coaches, mentors and friends to their students. Our guidance program is another avenue of support. Classroom lessons and small group sessions center around personal and social development, career exploration and educational and vocational development. We received national recognition through the **2001 ABCs of Career Awareness and Career Guidance Exemplary Program Award** and state recognition through the **2001 Exemplary Elementary Career Guidance and Counseling Program.** To further support individual needs, Ladue implemented all day kindergarten and passed a class size policy of 17-19 students in grades K-3 and 19-22 students in grades 4-5. Eight additional certified teacher assistants support learning at Conway. Parents are a crucial part of our learning community. Each year, we average 140 volunteers who provide services to the children and the school. Our strong, caring Conway School Association supports the school by sponsoring and funding activities that increase our children's enjoyment of learning. Parent and community partnerships teach children to be responsible citizens through service projects like the "Kids Caring 4 Kids" Toy Drive and the "Adopt an Acre" campaign to save the rainforest. Our newly formed Dad's Club sponsors activities for children such as movie night and "Conway Cupids" – a service project to feed the homeless. Our home-school partnership is strengthened by Conway's commitment to parent education. *Raising Healthy Children* conferences invite parents to hear experts discuss issues such as discipline, self-esteem and study skills.